



March 2000

VOTING INFORMATION NEWS

Vol. 10 No. 3

A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) ☒ For voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.

Volunteer Voters Needed

Voting Over The Internet Pilot Project

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP), in cooperation with participating counties in four states, is looking for absentee voters among our Uniformed Services members (and possibly their eligible spouses) to take part in a Voting Over the Internet Pilot Project. Voters will use the pilot system to register, request an absentee ballot, and submit a voted ballot in the November 7, 2000 general election.

To be eligible, a citizen must be covered under the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*, have access to the Internet, and be a legal voting resident of one of the following pilot project jurisdictions: Orange county, Florida; Dallas county, Texas; Weber county, Utah; and the following South Carolina counties: Beaufort, Greenville, Greenwood, Horry, Lancaster, Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Orangeburg, Pickens and York.

This is a small scale pilot project undertaken to evaluate using the Internet as an alternative delivery mechanism for absentee registration and voting for those covered under the *UOCAVA*. For test purposes, no more than 350 citizens will participate in the pilot project. In all, there are five pilot project sites in the four states: Okaloosa and Orange counties in Florida; Dallas county in Texas, Weber county in Utah and all counties (central location) in South Carolina. Upon completion of the pilot project, voters will be asked about various system performance factors such as ease of use and response time.

The FVAP works closely with state and (See **VOI pilot project**, page 2)

Do's & Don'ts for Members of the Armed Forces

Political Activity While on Active Duty

During an election year, many active duty military members may wish to get involved in campaigning for their favorite candidate. What are the limits to their participation? Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, which covers Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty says that an Active Duty member of the Armed Forces:

☒ May register, vote, and express his or her personal opinion on political candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the Armed Forces.

☒ May promote and encourage other military members to exercise their voting franchise, if such promotion does not constitute an attempt to influence or interfere with the outcome of an election.

☒ May join a political club and attend its meetings when not in uniform.

☒ May serve as an election official if such service is not as a representative of a partisan political party, does not interfere with military duties, is performed while not in uniform, and with prior approval of the Secretary concerned.

☒ May sign a petition for specific legislative action or a petition to place a candidate's name on an official election ballot, if the signing does not obligate the member to engage in partisan political activity and is done as a private citizen and not as a representative of the Armed Forces.

☒ May write a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing the member's personal

views on public issues or political candidates, if such action is not part of an organized letter-writing campaign or concerted solicitation of votes for or against a political party or partisan cause or candidate.

☒ May make monetary contributions to a political organization, party, or committee favoring a particular candidate or slate of candidates.

☒ May display a political sticker on the member's private vehicle.

The same Defense Directive 1344.10, says that Active Duty members of the Armed Forces may not engage in certain activities.

Members of the Armed Forces:

☐ May not use official authority or influence to interfere with an election, affect the course or outcome of an election, solicit votes for a particular candidate or issue, or require or solicit political contributions from others.

☐ May not be a candidate for civil office in Federal, State or local government, or engage in public or organized soliciting of others to become partisan candidates for nomination or election to civil office.

☐ May not participate in partisan political management or campaigns, or make public speeches in the course thereof.

☐ May not make a campaign contribution to another member of the Armed (See **Political Activity**, page 4)

In This Issue

VOI Pilot Project	p. 1
Political Activity	1
Postmark Alert	1
Electronic Transmission	3



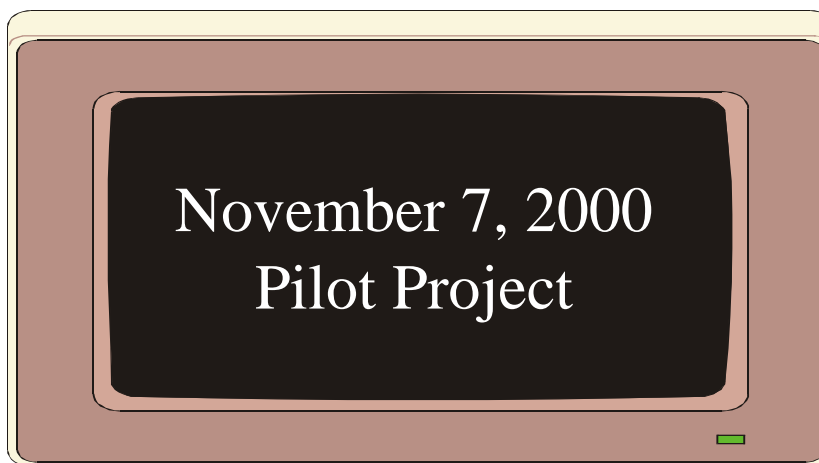
Attention All UOCAVA Citizens:

Have your voted ballot stamped with a dated postmark so that the Local Election Official can make a proper determination on timely mailing. When mailing the ballot, please ask the mail clerk to hand stamp the ballot envelope so that a date is clearly visible.

(VOI pilot project, from page 1) local officials to identify ways to improve the absentee voting process for citizens covered under the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* (members of the Uniformed Services, Merchant Marine and their family members, and all U.S. citizens residing outside the United States). Our men and women in Uniform are assigned to combat

zones, disaster areas, aboard seagoing vessels and in remote locations where regular mail service is unpredictable or difficult to obtain. Overseas civilians frequently face similar potentially disenfranchising situations. Peace Corps volunteers, missionaries and others in distant locations often do not have the benefit of regular mail delivery.

While many states allow



electronic transmission (faxing) of election materials as an alternative to mail-in delivery, the fact remains that insufficient mail transit time continues to be a significant obstacle to ensuring timely delivery of election materials.

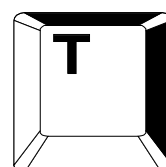
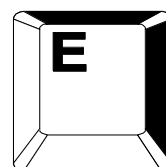
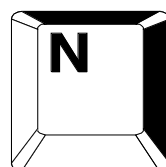
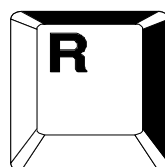
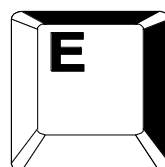
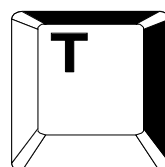
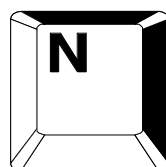
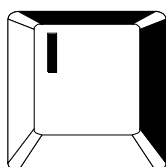
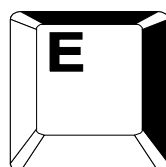
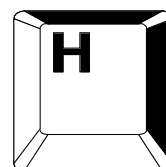
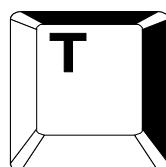
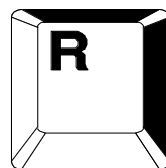
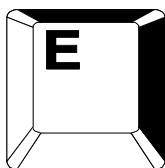
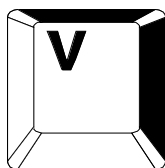
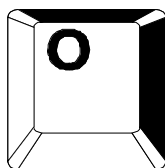
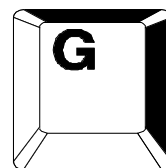
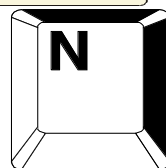
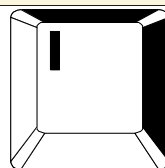
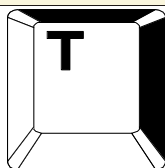
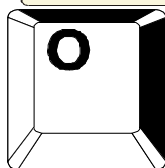
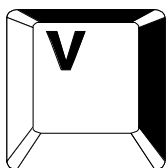
One of the goals of the FVAP is to take advantage of new technology to more effectively and efficiently serve UOCAVA citizens.

We are very excited about

this pilot project and all that we can learn from it. If you or any of your

eligible family members would like to participate in this project, please contact the FVAP by e-mail, fax or regular mail (contact

information below). Or, for more information about the pilot project, please call the FVAP at toll-free on 1-800-438-8683; (703) 588-1584; or DSN 425-1584. ☐



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Voting Information News provides information for citizens and Voting Assistance Officers and is published monthly by the FVAP.

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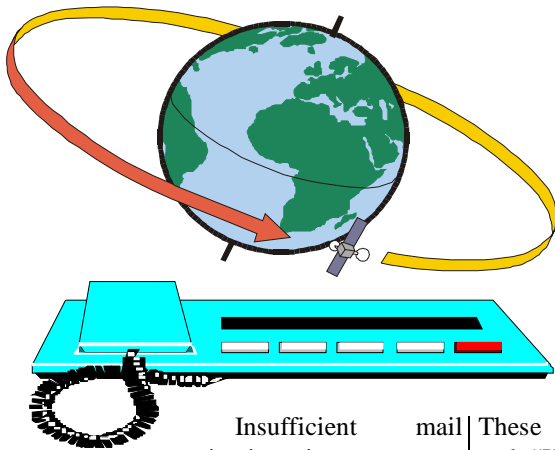


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 TOLL FREE 1-800-438-VOTE (8683)



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Note: Copying or using VIN articles in other publications, etc. is encouraged.



Insufficient mail transit time is a common obstacle that many citizens covered under the *Uniformed and Overseas Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* encounter when voting by absentee ballot. The Electronic Transmission Service (ETS) has been very successful. The service is an effective and efficient alternative method for providing secure high-speed delivery (faxing) of election materials between local election officials and the *UOCAVA* voters (where permitted by state law). With proper controls in place, the service can reduce the ballot transit time at least in half, helping to ensure that citizens are able to cast a ballot when they would not otherwise have been able to vote due to time and location constraints.

To date, 46 states and territories allow for some type of electronic transmission of absentee voting materials for *UOCAVA* citizens. The provisions and guidelines for transmitting election materials electronically (faxing) are identified in

Don't Forget About...

Electronic Transmission of Election Materials IT CAN SAVE YOUR VOTE!

each state and territory section of the *2000-01 Voting Assistance Guide* (the *Guide* is available in hard-copy format or on-line at the FVAP Website www.fvap.ncr.gov). To maintain the integrity of the process, citizens should follow the instructions provided in Appendix C of the *Guide*.

These instructions include "What" "When" and "How" Sections. An ETS transmission sheet, which can be duplicated for repeat use, is provided on page 321.

With so many states accepting this alternative transmission method, the FVAP provides the following procedures for successful use of the service.

Each request should have a separate completed cover sheet.

Only one citizen's Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) or ballot should be transmitted at a time. (Separate transmission)

Be sure to specify the Local Election Official (county, city or town office).

A complete Country (and city) code should be provided with the fax number.

A citizen should provide a Commercial return phone and fax number (not DSN numbers).

Originals should be mailed after electronic transmission.

When faxing election materials, we recommend use of the FVAP ETS at DSN (military) 223-5527, (703) 693-5527 or toll-free 1-800-368-8683.

Important things to remember:

If a state or territory allows a voter to fax the voted ballot, the voter must sign a statement waiving his or her right to secrecy.

VAOs: When assisting citizens, let them do the faxing whenever possible. If you do have to fax their election materials, do not reveal the contents of their ballot.

In the "Remarks" section of the FPCA, provide any information that may assist LEOs in determining your eligibility to vote. For example, a maiden name (or other name used), a name and telephone number of a local contact or your e-mail address can be listed in this section in the event the LEO needs to get in touch with you.

If you have additional questions and local assistance is not available, please contact your Service Voting Action Officer or the FVAP directly. ☒

Voting Action Officers

Department of State: Office of American Citizens Services

Voting Action Officer: Mr. Ron Hawkins **tel:** (202) 647-9100 **tel FTS:** 8-647-6060, **fax:** (202) 647-6201
E-mail: HAWKINSRE@state.gov

Service Voting Action Officers

Dept. of the Army: Mr. Tom Feazell **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **tel DSN:** 221-4530, **fax:** (703) 325-4532, **fax DSN:** 221-4532
E-mail: feazellt@hoffman.army.mil

Dept. of the Navy: Mr. John Hillis **tel:** (901) 874-4369, **tel DSN:** 882-4369,
fax: (901) 874-2689, **fax DSN:** 882-2689 **E-mail:** p662b@persnet.navy.mil
World Wide Web: <http://www.persnet.navy.mil/pers66/nvap>

Dept. of the Air Force: TSgt Sophia Barnard **tel:** (210) 565-2563, **toll-free:** (800) 558-1404 **tel DSN:** 665-2563,
DSN fax: 665-2543, **Commercial fax:** (210) 565-2543 **E-mail:** Sophia.Barnard@afpc.randolph.af.mil
World Wide Web: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/ccprog/VOTING/VOTING.htm>

Marine Corps: Gunnery Sergeant Dennis Hellberg **tel:** (703) 784-9511 **tel DSN:** 278-9511, **fax:** (703) 784-9827,
fax DSN: 278-9827 **E-mail:** Dennis_J_Hellberg/MR/MANPOWER@manpower.usmc.mil

U.S. Coast Guard: MCPO Jeff Creighton **tel:** (202) 267-1636, **fax:** (202) 267-4823
E-mail: jcreighton@comdt.uscg.mil

All of the above can also be reached through the DoD Voting Information Center and the FVAP Website at www.fvap.ncr.gov

(**Political Activity**, from page 1) Forces or to a civilian officer or an employee of the United States for promoting a political objective or cause.

☒ May not solicit or receive a campaign contribution from another member of the Armed Forces or from a civilian officer or employee of the United States for promoting a political objective or cause.

☒ May not speak before a partisan political gathering of any kind for promoting a partisan political party or candidate.

☒ May not use contemptuous words against officeholders described in 10 USC 888.

☒ May not perform clerical or other duties for a partisan political committee during a campaign or on an election day.

☒ May not solicit or otherwise engage in fundraising activities in Federal offices

or facilities, including military reservations, for a partisan political cause or candidate.

☒ May not sell tickets for, or otherwise actively promote, political dinners and similar fundraising events.

☒ May not allow or cause to be published partisan political articles signed or written by the member that solicit votes for or against a partisan political party or candidate.

☒ May not serve in any official capacity or sponsor a partisan political club.

☒ May not participate in any media or group discussions as a partisan advocate.

☒ May not conduct a political opinion survey.

☒ May not march or ride in a partisan political parade.

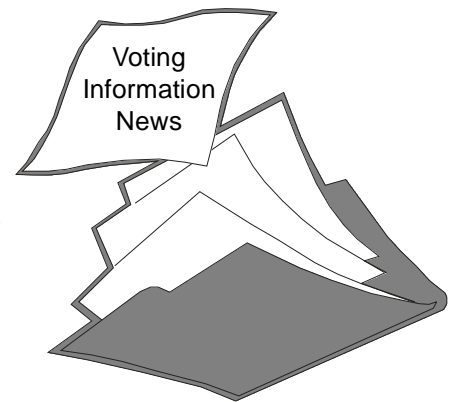
☒ May not display a large political sign, banner, or poster on a private vehicle (bumper stickers are allowed).

☒ May not participate in any partisan effort to provide voters with transportation to the polls.

☒ May not attend partisan political events as an official representative of the Armed Forces or while in uniform.

This list is only meant as a guide. If you have specific questions consult DoD Directive 1344.10 or your legal or JAG officer. ☒

Be Sure To Add This Newsletter To Your VOTING CONTINUITY FOLDER.



P o l i t i c a l A c t i v i t y

- **D o D D i r e c t i v e 1 3 4 4 . 1 0 -**
P o l i t i c a l A c t i v i t i e s b y M e m b e r s o f
t h e A r m e d F o r c e s o n A c t i v e D u t y
(<http://web7.whs.osd.mil/dodiss/directives/dir2.html>)

- **O A S D P u b l i c A f f a i r s P o l i c y G u i d a n c e**
E l e c t i o n s F o r P u b l i c O f f i c e

Federal Voting Assistance Program
Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155



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